



Chelsea, Massachusetts
NPDES Permit No. MA0101877
Annual Combined Sewer Overflow Press Release
April 15, 2016

Combined sewers are sewers that are designed to collect both wastewater and stormwater runoff in the same pipe. Approximately 70% of Chelsea is serviced by combined sewers. Most of the time, Chelsea's combined sewers transport all of the wastewater and stormwater to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's (MWRA's) Deer Island Treatment Plant, where it is treated and then discharged to the Atlantic Ocean. However, during large rain storms, the capacity of the combined sewer pipes can be exceeded. For this reason, combined sewer systems such as Chelsea's are designed with special overflow structures that can release the excess wet-weather flow to a nearby water body to prevent it from backing up into buildings or out of manholes. These overflows, called Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), contain not only stormwater but also untreated wastewater and debris. CSO discharges are a public health and water pollution concern for Chelsea, as well as the approximately 770 other U.S. cities with combined sewer systems. Chelsea has a permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), MA0101877, which authorizes the City to discharge from its three remaining CSOs as follows:

- CHE003 - Located on Winnisimmet Street and discharges to Chelsea River
- CHE004 - Located on Pearl Street and discharges to Chelsea River
- CHE008 - Located on Eastern Avenue and discharges to Chelsea River

Calendar Year 2015 CSO Update

As required by the CSO permit, Chelsea is publishing this Annual Press Release to inform the public about CSO discharges. In 2015, CHE004 discharged during three storm events and CHE008 discharged 13 storm events. There were no discharges from CHE003 in 2015. Detailed information regarding Chelsea's CSOs, and all 2015 discharges, may be found in the CSO Annual Report posted on the City's website after April 30, 2016 (www.ci.chelsea.ma.us).

Ongoing CSO Elimination Efforts

Chelsea is aggressively pursuing sewer separation and other infrastructure improvement projects that will reduce the quantity of stormwater discharged to its combined sewer system and, therefore, CSO activation frequency and volume. During 2015, construction on sewer separation, and other utility improvements, was completed or begun in the following areas of Chelsea:

- Beech Street between Carter & Spruce
- Blossom between Carter & Maple
- Broadway between Front & Williams
- Bryson between Blossom & Heard
- Carter Street between Blossom & Everett
- Everett Avenue between Carter & Maple
- Gardner Street between Washington & Parker
- Heard Street between Bryson & Maple
- Maple Street between Heard and Blossom
- Spruce Street between Beech & the RR tracks

Also in 2015, design of sewer separation and other utility improvements was initiated for the following areas of Chelsea:

- Clark Avenue between Crescent and Cary
- Crescent Avenue between Broadway and Washington
- Forsyth between Lafayette & Washington
- Lawrence Street between Clark and Tudor
- Maverick Street between Lynn & Shurtleff
- Shurtleff Street between Congress and Broadway
- Tudor Street between Crescent and Cary

These projects are being funded through the City's Capital Improvement Plan, as well as various grant and loan programs.

Additional information regarding Chelsea's CSOs is available on the City's website at www.ci.chelsea.ma.us, as well as from the EPA or Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.